JFK'

on of Conspiracy

I'm the 'Odd Man Out'

In their op-ed article "Kennedy Assassination: How about the Truth?" [op-ed, Dec. 17], Gerald R. Ford and David W. Belin bemoan the fact that neither the five-part A&E series "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" nor Oliver Stone's "JFK" includes an appearance by any of the physicians who have examined President Kennedy's autopsy photographs and X-rays. These doctors support the findings of the Warren Commission, namely, that Oswald, a lone assassin, fired three shots, one of which produced seven wounds in Kennedy and Gov. John Connally and emerged in near-pristine condition with only 1.5 percent loss of its original weight after some incredible midair vertical and horizontal gyrations in the course of its momentous journey. The writers are extremely unhappy about the fact that the one physician who reviewed these autopsy materials and disagreed with the Warren Commission "appeared repeatedly on the A&E network in a number of the sequences." So painful is this fact to Ford and Belin that they can only bring themselves to refer to this person as the "odd man out."

The "odd man out" has a name and identity—the undersigned. I am a board-certified anatomic, clinical and forensic pathologist who has performed approximately 11,000 autopsies and reviewed more than 25,000 others. I am a past president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the American College of Legal Medicine; member of six graduate school faculties; author of 300 published scientific articles; editor or co-editor of 30 published professional books; and a member of 20 national and international medicolegal and forensic scientific journals. I have lectured in more than 60 foreign countries (several times on the JFK assassination) and have been qualified as an expert in forensic pathology for trial testimony in approximately 30 states. While none of these credentials automatically makes my analysis of the Kennedy assassination correct, I would suggest they do qualify me to render a competent, professional opinion regarding this highly controversial murder.

In August 1972, when I examined all the JFK materials at the National Archives, I "discovered" that the president's brain, microscopic tissue slide and Kodachromes of the internal chest wounds were missing after having been specifically identified in an inventory dated April 26, 1965. More than one-half of the Warren Commission report physician-supporters, whom Ford and Belin would have readers believe are such credible, unbiased experts, were aware before my public disclosure in 1972 that these critical pieces of physical evidence had been illegally and surreptitiously removed from the National Archives (by an as yet unidentified person). Apparently, they never felt ethically or morally compelled to refer this important finding to the news media. Even today, almost 20 years later, the silence of all these physicians regarding the missing medical evidence is deafening.

I expect critiques by your paper on anyone who dares to challenge the validity of the Warren Commission report. I can only hope that in fairness you publish an occasional response from the individuals who are attacked. As for me, kindly have courage to refer to me by name the next time.

—*Cyril H. Wecht*

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